

Quarterly Project Progress Report

UNDP/GEF Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the Yellow Sea

Large Marine Ecosystem: Restoring Ecosystem Goods and Services and



Basic Project Information

UNDP Award ID	00074724
UNDP Project ID	00087001
Reporting Period	1 April 2017 – 30 June 2017
Participating UN agencies	UNOPS
Implementing Partners/ National collaborating agencies	State Oceanic Administration of China, and Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries of RO Korea
International collaborating agencies	
Cost-sharing third parties	
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Project website	www.yellowseapartnership.org

Executive Summary

The Project Inception Workshop is scheduled on July 11-13 in Seoul, RO Korea. On the development of YSLME into a sustainable regional arrangement, the project supported a consultancy to prepare a roadmap to enable the stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the key elements of the institutional framework, process, a feasible plan on how to launch the YSLME Commission at the early stage of implementation of the Project. With regards to supporting services of the YSLME, subsequent to the identification of Rudong Xiaoyangkou as a site to be established as a potential MPA in the first quarter, the project supported the preparation of a technical proposal to list Xiaoyangkou as a national MPA at the request of local Ocean and Fisheries Bureau. It is expected that the proposal will be completed in October to facilitate the inclusion in the YSLME MPA Network. To restore the provisioning services, PMO has launched vacancy announcement for preparing training modules for integrated multi-tropic aquaculture. Meanwhile, a new meeting room for use in conduct of training courses on integrated multi-tropic aquaculture is being built in Sungo Bay, Rongcheng of Shandong Province, the first demonstration site of IMTA during the first phase of the project. The room will be used to train aquaculture practitioners in coastal provinces of YS in PR China, RO Korea and other countries in other LMEs. The project is now undergoing a bidding for the services of developing a project website. In addition, the project has also launched the Internship Program to join the PMO team to construct the website and establish a clearing house of environmental laws in Yellow Region. A total of US\$243,469 has been disbursed from January 1 to June 30, 2017, representing 14 percent of the budget for 2017.

The following recommendations are proposed for consideration:

Implementation of AWP 2017:

- a) *By August 20, the Secretariat complete all major TORs for consultancies;*
- b) *The Secretariat consult relevant RWG Chairs and Vice Chairs in writing on the methodologies and TORs of consultancy services;*
- c) *The Chairs and Vice Chairs of relevant RWGs communicate and provide joint responses to the request of the Secretariat within 10 working days; and*
- d) *The Secretariat closely follow up the implementation of the contracts to ensure timely submission of deliverables by the consultants or subcontractors.*

Engaging DPR Korea:

- e) *The Secretariat consider organizing more events in China at the border city with DPR Korea, i.e. Dandong of Liaoning Province, or Secretariat Dalian Branch, to allow participation of DPR Korea counterparts in project activities possible and in a cost-efficient manner; and*
- f) *Furthermore, the Secretariat explore opportunities of financial support from UN Agencies or organizations with field operations in DPR Korea to facilitate the participation of DPR Korea colleagues in project meetings and workshops.*

1. Project Implementation Status and Progress Report (Report against AWP)

1.1 Outcome & Output Progress Report

UNDP China CPD Indicator(s)

Indicator Description	Progress Report
<p>UNDAF/CPD Outcome 2) More people enjoy a cleaner, healthier environment as a result of improved environmental protection and sustainable green growth.</p> <p>UNDAF Indicator 2.3: Number of hectares of land covered by protected area measures</p> <p>Country Program Document for China 2016-2020</p> <p>Output 2.1: China’s actions on climate change mitigation, biodiversity and chemicals across sectors are scaled up, funded and implemented.</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.3: Extend to which adopted regulations, ordinances and standards bring about stronger biodiversity protection</p> <p>Baseline (2015): Not adequately (1) Target (2020): Largely (4)</p> <p>Output 2.2: Regulatory and capacity barriers for the sustained and widespread adoption of environmentally sustainable strategy implementation identified and taken up/committed to remove by the Government</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2: Number of barriers inhibiting the implementation of the</p>	

<p>multi-lateral environmental agreements in China</p> <p>Baseline technical barriers (2015): 9 Baseline capacity barriers (2015): 61 Baseline institutional barriers (2015): 32 Baseline regulatory barriers (2015): 22</p> <p>Output 2.4: Preparedness systems in place to effectively reduce risks, prevent crisis and enhance resilience at all levels of government and community</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.1: Number of early warning systems for major natural hazards (e.g., geophysical and climate-induced hazards) and man-made crisis</p> <p>Baseline (2015): 1 Target (2020): 3</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.2: Percentage of people at risk of major natural hazards and man-made crisis that are covered by multi-hazard preparedness plans</p> <p>Baseline (2015): 10% Target (2020): 20%</p>	
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UNDP SP Indicator(s)

Indicator Description	Progress Report
<p>UNDP Strategic Plan 2014-2017: Outcome 2: citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance</p> <p>Primary Outcome: Output 2.5: Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions</p>	

<p>enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation.</p> <p>Output indicator 2.5.3: number of countries implementing national and sub-national plans to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems</p> <p>UNDP Strategic Plan Secondary Outcome: Output 2.4: Frameworks and dialogue processes engaged for effective and transparent engagement of civil society in national development</p>	<p><i>In the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the YSLME, PR China and RO Korea recognized the need to establish the YSLME Commission as a soft, non-legally binding and cooperation based institution to contribute to better coordination of national efforts and to enhancing effectiveness of regional efforts. In this regard, the project support a consultancy to enable the stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the key elements of the institutional framework, process, a feasible plan on how to launch the YSLME Commission at the early stage of implementation of the Project. This consultancy will help clarify the framework and key elements of the YSLME Commission, identify the gaps and barriers in terms of institution, policy and good governance for a sustainable Commission, and propose a plan of activities and timeframe for establishment of the Commission.</i></p>
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Project Outcome/Output Indicator(s)

Indicator Description	Progress Report
<p>1. Ensuring Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Management</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Status of YSLME Commission and subsidiary bodies at regional level</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Status of Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC)</p>	<p><i>In the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the YSLME, PR China and RO Korea recognized the need to establish the YSLME Commission as a soft, non-legally binding and cooperation based institution to contribute to better coordination of national efforts and to enhancing effectiveness of regional efforts. In this regard, the project support a consultancy to enable the stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the key elements of the institutional framework, process, a feasible plan on how to launch the YSLME Commission at the early stage of implementation of the Project. This consultancy will help clarify the framework and key elements of the YSLME Commission, identify the gaps and barriers in terms of institution, policy and good governance for a sustainable Commission, and propose a plan of activities and timeframe for establishment of the Commission.</i></p>

<p>Indicator 1.3: Number of the YS Partners in support of YSLME SAP;</p> <p>Indicator 1.4: Status of recognition and compliance to regional and international treaties and agreements</p> <p>Indicator 1.5: Agreement on the financial arrangement for the YSLME Commission</p>	<p><i>Areas of collaboration with PEMSEA are drafted for discussion at the forthcoming Partnership Council scheduled in July 24-26. These include: 1), Mutual representation in governing body meetings; 2), Development of climate change adaptation model framework plan for integration into ICM framework in two coastal cities or provinces, and joint conduct of training/workshop; 3), Joint training programs for MPA networking and integration into ICM programs for management effectiveness; 4), replication of integrated multitropic aquaculture in PEMSEA partner countries; and 5), joint organization of a workshop in EAS congress 2018 to maximize the complementarities of ICM and LME in regional seas governance.</i></p>
<p>2. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with Respect to Provisioning Services</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Number of fishing boats decommissioned from the fleet in YSLME waters</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Status of major commercially important fish stock from restocking and habitat improvement</p> <p>Indicator 2.3: Level of pollutant discharge from mariculture operations</p>	
<p>3. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Regulating and Cultural Services</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: Level of pollutant discharges particularly Nitrogen in YSLME tributaries</p> <p>Indicator 3.2: Types of technologies applied for pollution reduction</p> <p>Indicator 3.3: Status of legal and regulatory process to control pollution</p> <p>Indicator 3.4: Status of the control of marine litter at selected locations</p>	
<p>4. Improving Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to Supporting Services</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: Areas of critical habitats;</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: level of ecological connectivity in expansion of the Yellow Sea MPA system.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3: Status of incorporation of</p>	<p><i>Subsequent to the identification of Rudong Xiaoyangkou as a site to be established as a potential MPA in the first quarter, the project supported the preparation of a technical proposal to list Xiaoyangkou as a national MPA at the request of local Ocean and Fisheries Bureau. It is expected that the proposal will be</i></p>

<p>adaptive management of climate change regional strategies and in ICM plans for selected coastal communities</p> <p>Indicator 4.4: Status of Regional Monitoring Network for application of ECBM</p>	<p><i>completed in October to facilitate the inclusion in the YSLME MPA Network.</i></p>
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1.1 Activity Implementation Status Report

In addition to the above progress, the following activities have been undertaken:

- 1, the project inception workshop is scheduled on July 11-13 in Seoul, RO Korea. Approximately 50 participants will attend the first meetings of the MSTP, ICC and inception ceremony.*
- 2, PMO has launched vacancy announcement for preparing training modules for integrated multi-tropic aquaculture;*
- 3, the request for quotations for website development was uploaded and more than 3 quotations were received before the deadline of June 30.*
- 4, A new meeting room for use in conduct of training courses on integrated multi-tropic aquaculture is being built in Sungo Bay, Rongcheng of Shandong Province, the first demonstration site of IMTA during the first phase of the project. The room will be used to train aquaculture practionners in coastal provinces of YS in PR China, RO Korea and other countries in other LMEs.*
- 5, a Seminar on Marine Protected Areas in YSLME and North-East Asia is being planned on Ganghwa Island on July 14 in collaboration with Ganghwa County. A field trip will also be organized for participants at project Inception Workshop.*

2. Finance Management

*Please mark with **red** the 'Accumulated Quarterly Delivery Rate' box (Accumulated Expenditure/ Accumulated Budget) if the delivery rate is under 60%. For delivery rate ranging from 60% to 85%, please mark with **yellow**. For delivery rate in the range of 85% - 100%, please mark with **green**. Comments must be provided for delivery rates of outputs marked with red and yellow texts. The content of comment should cover reasons for low delivery rate and action plans for catching up.*

Output	Annual Budget	Accumulated Expenditure	Quarterly Budget (USD)	Quarterly Expenditure (USD)	Accumulated Annual Delivery Rate%	Comments
1. Sustainable Regional and National Cooperation	299,020	114,161			38%	

for Ecosystem-Based Management					
2. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to provisioning services	325,670	18,146			5.6%
3. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to regulating and cultural services	389,700	18,049			4.6%
4. Improved Ecosystem Carrying Capacity with respect to supporting services	521,500	24,120			4.6%
5. Project Management Cost	103,200	68,438			66%
Total	\$1,639,090	\$243,469			14%

3. Project Management and Oversight

3.1 Risk Log Status Update

below is the table updating the risks and management responses in the project.

#	Description	Status	Management Response
1	External risks stem from the geopolitical situation and may result in one or more countries either not participating or participating only partially	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>
2	Potential partners unwilling to make formal commitments	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>
3	Stakeholders unwilling to participate	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>

4	Governments unwilling to actively engage the NGO community	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>
5	Government Ministries/departments unwilling to share development and management plans	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>
6	Government policy changes, making boat buyback a low priority.	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>
7	Difficulties in negotiating the joint fisheries stock assessment, causes delay or cancellation	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>
8	Mariculture enterprises unwilling to adopt integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) in place of monoculture	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>
9	Possible risk of non-compliance by polluting enterprises	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>
10	New techniques for pollution reduction not widely adopted	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>
11	National, Provincial and Local Governments continue to encourage land reclamation.	<i>Reducing</i>	<i>N/A</i>
12	Provincial and local governments may not agree to the establishment of new MPAs	<i>no change</i>	<i>N/A</i>

3.2 Communication and advocacy

❖ A piece of news report entitled Protecting the Home of Endangered Species was published on UNDP China website on April 30, 2017 to highlight UNDP/GEF initiative in the Yellow Sea to protect the endangered spoon-billed sandpiper by designating the Xiaoyangkou of Rudong as a national Marine Protected Area. The news report can be accessed through the following weblink:

- YSLME Voluntary commitments to the UN Ocean Conference. On June 10th, 2017, New York, the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously agreed to accelerate action to stop and reverse environmental degradation of oceans at the largest ever gathering of states under the UN umbrella – the UN Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, convened in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The Ocean Conference, the first UN conference of its kind on the issue has raised global consciousness of ocean problems ranging from marine pollution to illegal and over fishing, from ocean acidification to lack of high seas governance. The YSLME initiatives contributing to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 were registered as “Voluntary Commitments” and introduced YSLME SAP with identification of 11 regional targets aimed at restoring and maintaining the ecosystems capacity. Specifically, the YSLME Project has registered to achieve the following three deliverables as commitments to the SDG 14: 1) By December 2019, establish the YSLME Commission as a non-legally binding collaboration arrangement; 2) By December 2019, 25-30% of fishing boats are reduced using the year 2004 as the baseline to relieve the pressure on fish stocks; and By December 2020, 10 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are created in YSLME to contribute to 10% coverage of coastal and marine areas under conservation and management, using 2009 as the baseline.

For more information, please click the link below.

(<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19068>).



3.3 Management Recommendations

Implementation of the AWP 2017

A total of US\$243,469 has been disbursed from January 1 to June 30, 2017, representing 14 percent of the budget for 2017. Breakdown of the project expenditure by Activity (Components) and by Account generated from oneUNOPS is presented in Project Budget Balance report below.

Due to late approval of the AWP 2017, achieving the annual delivery target could be challenging without taking management measures. Similar to any regional projects, extensive consultation needed in making consensus over methodologies and terms of reference of activities among members of the RWGs may slow the contracting process for consultancies.

Management measures should be made in order to facilitate the achievement of annual delivery targets.

Recommendation:

- a) *By August 20, the Secretariat complete all major TORs for consultancies;*
- b) *The Secretariat consult relevant RWG Chairs and Vice Chairs in writing on the methodologies and TORs of consultancy services;*
- c) *The Chairs and Vice Chairs of relevant RWGs communicate and provide joint responses to the request of the Secretariat within 10 working days; and*
- d) *The Secretariat closely follow up the implementation of the contracts to ensure timely submission of deliverables by the consultants or subcontractors.*

Engaging DPR Korea

During the preparation stage of the YSLME Phase II project, DPR Korea submitted the letter of endorsement of the project to UNDP confirming its interest of participation. Due to special circumstances, UNDP was requested by the GEF to submit the project proposal without DPR Korea as a participating country. Being aware of the fact that it is unrealistic to invite DPR Korea representatives to participate in the inception workshop, the Secretariat has updated its embassy in Beijing of the inception workshop and provided electronic versions of meeting documents for sharing with its national counterpart agency of the YSLME Project in Pyongyang.

It is to the interest of all partners to revitalize the collaboration with DPR Korea in the project, with the objective of having the updated SAP jointly adopted by the three countries bordering the Yellow Sea. Having project meetings and workshops in RO Korea makes the participation of DPR Korea in project activities politically unrealistic.

Recommendation:

- a) *The Secretariat consider organizing more events in China at the border city with DPR Korea, i.e. Dandong of Liaoning Province, or Secretariat Dalian Branch, to allow participation of DPR Korea counterparts in project activities possible and in a cost-efficient manner; and*
- b) *Furthermore, the Secretariat explore opportunities of financial support from UN Agencies or organizations with field operations in DPR Korea to facilitate the participation of DPR Korea colleagues in project meetings and workshops.*

3.4 New opportunities/Initiatives

YSLME launches its intern program
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On June 15, PMO has uploaded two opportunities for interns on UNOPS website which signifies the launch of the internship program of YSLME. The objective of the YSLME II Project Internship Program is to offer students or recent graduates the work experiences that would enhance their employability and/or skills and to provide a unique learning opportunity through a better understanding of UN values and culture in a diverse and international working environment.

YSLME Internship Program offers the internship opportunities through the following arrangements:

- UNOPS, which recruits interns in line with its internship policies and procedure. Internship opportunities will be published on UNOPS employment website and the Global Personnel Recruitment system (GPRS).
- MOU with participating governments in the Project. Under this arrangement, candidates will be nominated by governments.
- Incheon Metropolitan City “International Organizations Career Experience Program”. Only students from collaborative universities with Incheon Metropolitan City of RO Korea are eligible for participation.

Internship lasts from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 12 months with duty station in Incheon, RO Korea. Current vacancies for internship include environmental law and communication.

The following requirements will be considered for the selection of an Intern:

- Academic and skills requirements
- Enrollment in a university degree program such as Bachelor, Masters or Ph.D. (or the equivalent), or have graduated from such studies within three years prior to the application date of the internship.
- Fluency in at least one of the UN official languages is required. Knowledge of a second UN official language is desirable.

For more information, please refer to the Guide for Internship in UNDP/GEF YSLME Phase II Project.

3.5 Engagement of target groups



4. Annex:

4.1 Project Budget Balance (PBB) Report

By Workpackage	by Account	TOTAL (\$)	
91007-ACTIVITY 1 - Sust. Reg. & Nat. Cooperation	CMDC_Supervised Staff	141	
	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	2,229	
	Daily Subsistence Allow-Intl	2,076	
	ICA Annual Leave Accrual	(2,497)	
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	149	
	LICA PF Org Contribution	863	
	Printing and Publications	941	
	Realized Gain	(15)	
	Realized Loss	141	
	Travel - Other	832	
	Travel DSA Mtng Partic	581	
	Travel Tickets-International	10,465	
	UNOPS ICA Fee	98,254	
	91007-ACTIVITY 1 - Sust. Reg. & Nat. Cooperation Total		114,161
91007-ACTIVITY 2 - Provisioning services	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	523	
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	20	
	UNOPS ICA Fee	17,603	
91007-ACTIVITY 2 - Provisioning services Total		18,146	
91007-ACTIVITY 3 - Regulating and cultural servic	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	533	
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	21	
	UNOPS ICA Fee	18,049	
91007-ACTIVITY 3 - Regulating and cultural servic Total		18,603	
91007-ACTIVITY 4 - Supporting services	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	680	
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	26	
	UNOPS ICA Fee	23,414	
91007-ACTIVITY 4 - Supporting services Total		24,120	
91007-ACTIVITY 5 - Project Management	Acquis of Computer Hardware	10,165	
	Acquis of Computer Software	3,272	
	Acquisition of Audio Visual Eq	792	
	Acquisition of Communic Equip	1,065	
	CMDC non- person related (Engagement Services)	3,121	
	CMDC non- person related (IPAS Services)	1,551	
	CMDC_UNOPS Supervised ICA	774	
	Connectivity Charges	212	
	Daily Subsistence Allow-Local	2,188	
	Foreign Exch Translation Gain	36	
	Foreign Exch Translation Loss	(0)	
	Furniture	12,497	
	ICA Insurance UNOPS	206	
	Inform Technology Supplies	79	
	Leased office equip and furnit	1,096	
	LICA PF Org Contribution	2,014	
	Machinery and Equipment	2,793	
	Realized Gain	(78)	
	Realized Loss	1,220	
	Stationery & other Office Supp	685	
	Travel - Other	386	
	Travel Tickets-International	3,293	
	UNOPS ICA Fee	16,558	
	Utilities	4,516	
	91007-ACTIVITY 5 - Project Management Total		68,438
	Grand Total		\$ 243,469